

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed on January 6, 2009, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Entry of the present amendment and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 12-13 and 15-24 remain in the Application, where claims 1-10 had been previously canceled without prejudice, and claims 11 and 14 have been currently canceled. Claims 1, 17, 19 and 23-24 are independent. Applicant reserves the right to reintroduce subject matter deleted herein at a later time during the prosecution of this application or continuing applications.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner objected to the specification for a certain informality. In response, the specification has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

In the Final Office Action, the drawings are objected to because page 8, lines 15-19 of the specification refers to element

110B for both the third and fourth controllable filter device. In response, the specification has been amended for better conformance with FIG 4. Further, the drawings are objected to for not showing reference labels 311a-311d and 411a-411d, as recited on page 12, line 30 of the specification. In response, FIG 7 has been amended to include reference labels 311a-311d and 411a-411d. Further, the drawings are objected to for not showing reference labels "s" in lower-case consistent with page 13, line 17-18 of the specification. In response, the specification has been amended to change the labels "s" from lower-case to upper case for consistence with the drawings. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

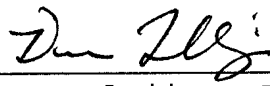
In the Final Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 17, 19 and 23-24 are allowed. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication that claims 17, 19 and 23-24 are allowed. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 12-13, 15-16, 18 and 20-22 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from amended independent claims 17 and 23.

In addition, Applicant denies any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the

foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicant reserves the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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Enclosure: Replacement drawing sheet (1 sheet including FIG 7)

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